

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:
 - a main unit having an image forming section configured to form an image on a sheet of paper;
 - 5 an image reading section located just above the main unit, and configured to read a document image;
 - an ejection space defined between a bottom of the image reading section and the image forming section, the ejection space having an opening at a front of the main unit;
 - 10 an ejection tray cover defining a bottom of the ejection space and configured to receive a paper sheet ejected from the image forming section, the ejection tray cover covering the image forming section;
 - 15 an attachment section provided at a front of the image reading section; and
 - 20 a control panel unit attached to the attachment section by a hinge having a predetermined rotational resistance, the control panel unit being rotatable through a predetermined angle with respect to an imaginary horizontal plane, the control panel unit being able to be held in a direction of rotation.
2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rotational resistance of the hinge can hold the control panel unit stationary in the direction of rotation even if an operational force is applied to the control panel unit.

3. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

a guide rail attached to the attachment section
provided at the front of the image reading section; and

5 a movable rail movable along the guide rail, and
 wherein the control panel unit is attached to the
movable rail by the hinge having the predetermined
rotational resistance, the control panel unit being
rotatable through the predetermined angle with respect
10 to the imaginary horizontal plane, the control panel
unit being able to be held in the direction of
rotation, the control panel unit being movable in a
direction of a width of the main unit when a force not
less than a predetermined value is exerted on the
15 control panel unit.

4. The image forming apparatus according to
claim 3, wherein the control panel unit moves in the
direction of the width of the main unit if a force of
1N or more is exerted thereon, and the control panel
20 unit does not move if a force less than 1N is exerted
thereon.